

UNAPPROVED

There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel (arrived at 7:33 p.m.), John Gibbons, Daniel Pedro, Earl Wood. Erika Sanzi was absent.

Administration Present: Dr. Philip Thornton, Superintendent, Dr. Susan Carney, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Director of Administration

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

Chairman Mutter convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

At this time Chairman Mutter asked everyone for a moment of silence in memory of Superintendent Condon (former Superintendent of Cumberland) who recently passed away.

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0. Mrs. Teel had not arrived at this point.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – 1) Regular Meeting 11/10/2011 and 2) Special Meeting 11/21/2011. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 11/10/2011 and Special Meeting 11/21/2011, 2nd Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Chairman Mutter asked if “A” under New Business Agenda Item #10 – Demonstration of Technology in the Classroom, could be moved up to follow the Student Government Report.

No one had any objections.

Agenda Item #5: Student Government Report

There was no report at this time.

Agenda Item #10: New Business – A. Demonstration of Technology in the Classroom – (this item was moved up on the agenda) – Mike Chandler, Director of Technology, introduced Mrs. Benevides from B.F. Norton School. Mrs. Benevides talked about how she and her students use their laptops and the technology associated with them. They use Discovery Education and her students do their work, take tests and she teaches and corrects their tests with their technology. Her students can take a test on a Friday, she corrects it right away on the computer and on Monday when the students come in she knows what she has to go over again or if she can move ahead to the next chapter. They use Google Docs for Science right now and all of the

students work is right there. They use E Pals for global collaboration – students communicate with other students all over the world – kids that do not speak English can communicate with our students because of computer technology. At the end of Mrs. Benevides presentation Dr. Thornton said that this is the vision they have with the technology dollars that get approved each year and this is exactly how the money should be used.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent's Report

A. Update on Full-Day Kindergarten – Dr. Thornton started off by saying that it has been several weeks of trying to get an initial model together, but tonight he will share with everyone what he has to date. He started off by talking about some of the findings that shows the benefits and impact that full day kindergarten has on children. Some researchers say that children attending full day kindergarten show greater reading and mathematics achievement gains than those in half-day classes. Others say it can produce long term educational gains, some say that the child will be more successful later on in school, another study showed that the children will reap ongoing benefits in their academic careers. Dr. Thornton also talked about a Harvard Study that said that students who learn more in Kindergarten earn more as adults, and that they are more successful overall. The NESDEC study done in 2010 for Cumberland also stated that Cumberland would be serving its students and its taxpayers well by planning to add appropriate space for an expanded Pre-School Program and the beginning of full day Kindergarten. Next Fred

Schockaert, Deputy Director of Special Services gave a presentation regarding the numbers currently in our schools, first about the gap from half day kindergarten to first grade here in our district – there is a big gap especially in the Community and Cumberland Hill Schools. He talked about the 16 out of 35 school districts that do offer full day kindergarten and also mentioned that all of the charter schools offer a full day program. Mr. Schockaert also reviewed a chart that showed current classroom use so that everyone could see where there could be some room or possibly have room with some minor changes – he noted that Pre –K, Kindergarten and first grade classrooms need to be on the first floor due to fire codes. He reviewed projected classroom distribution with full day Kindergarten that showed what the enrollment could be with updated boundaries, the number of classrooms that would be needed and the classroom size or number of students per classroom. All in all Mr. Schockaert thought that full day Kindergarten is tight, but doable – he also noted that there is a projected enrollment decline that has been taken into consideration and noted that the charts would be posted on the website.

Dr. Thornton reiterated the fact that full day kindergarten is good for the students. He plans on bringing forth final recommendations for consideration after the first of the year. He said it will work, it will be a little tight with some numbers, but it can work. The best use of existing buildings is what we are currently utilizing. There will be a little purchasing such as cubbies and rugs for the kindergarten students, but not an excessive amount. The full

budget outlook will come after the first of the year. Mr. Pedro wanted to make sure that the bus situation gets reviewed. Mr. Wood asked about the bell times remaining the same and Dr. Thornton said they had not reviewed that yet. Mr. Gibbons asked what the timeline is to implement and Dr. Thornton said he would like to see it implemented next September.

Agenda Item #7: Chairperson's Report

There was no report at this time.

Agenda Item #8: Comments from the Public

No comments at this time.

Agenda Item #9: Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Wood stated that the Fiscal Management Sub Committee met earlier in the evening and he made a motion to pay invoices totaling \$1,492,440.69, 2nd by Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #10: New Business

B. Discussion and/or Vote to approve school sponsored field trips of long duration – Mr. Mutter stated that the School Committee has never approved field trips before – Dr. Thornton said there is a policy.

Mrs. Beaulieu asked if these were new requests and Mrs. Gould said they were similar to previous years. Mr. Gibbons asked if any of these trips are paying stipends to the chaperones and Mrs. Gould said that some get free passage. Mr. Gibbons would like to see these

trips bid on from various vendors – he believes if they get bid out, the costs could go down. Mrs. Gould said that Grad Nite is currently bid out. Mr. Gibbons wants them all to be competitively costed out. Mr. Mutter asked Mr. Rotella if all of the trips in front of them fit the guidelines in our policy and Mr. Rotella said yes they did. Mr. Wood asked what the criteria are for allowing students to go on these trips. Mrs. Gould said everyone is eligible, but Grad Nite requires good attendance and a certain grade average, but she added that if someone had a history of poor discipline, they would not be allowed to go on any of the trips. Mr. Pedro made a motion to approve the trips as presented, collectively, 2nd Mr. Wood, failed 4-2. Mr. Gibbons then made a motion to approve all of the trips listed in 2012 but not the trip listed for 2013, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 6-0.

C. Discussion and/or Vote to approve terms of written use of school facility agreements currently in place – Mr. Gibbons made a motion to keep current terms in place through this fiscal year, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, Mr. Gibbons noted that the current policy needs to be looked at and Mr. Mutter said that any past agreement that was used with the previous Superintendent will be honored, motion was approved 5-0, Mr. Gibbons abstained.

D. Discussion and/or Vote to approve SC-PR-12-2011-020: Outdoor Freezer Purchase – Mr. Wood made a motion to approve SC-PR-12-2011-020 for an outdoor walk-in freezer at Cumberland High School in an amount not to exceed \$23,176.80, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0. Mrs. Beaulieu noted that this freezer would replace one at the high school that can no longer be repaired.

Agenda Item #11: Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Rotella had the following recommendations:

Retirement

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the retirement of Dale Payson, Custodian at Cumberland High School, effective 12/16/2011.

Appointment

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Brian Batalau, Boy's Soccer Coach at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 12/9/2011. (Budgeted)

Leaves of Absence

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the FMLA Maternity Leave of Kerri Caplette, Grade 5 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 1/30/2012 with a return date of 5/14/2012. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the Maternity Leave of Judith Sanford, Grade 4 Teacher at B. F. Norton School, effective 4/6/2012 to the end of the 2011-2012 school year. (Budgeted)

Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the above recommendations as presented, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

ADDENDUM #1

Appointments

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Jonathan Gibbs, Boy's Soccer Coach at North Cumberland Middle School, effective 12/9/2011. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Andrea O'Donnell, .5 FTE Guidance Counselor at John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill Elementary School, effective 12/9/2011. (FTE: 1; Step: 1; Advance Lane: Masters (pending verification); Co-pay: 16%. (Budgeted)

I request the advice and consent of the School Committee on the appointment of Christine Skawinski, One-on-One Teacher Assistant at Community School, effective 12/9/2011. (Budgeted)

Mr. Rotella made one change to above recommendations – he said that Andrea O'Donnell should be .5 FTE and Step 3. Mrs. Beaulieu then made a motion to approve all of the appointments, 2nd Mr. Pedro, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #12: Comments from the Public

Mrs. C. (Band Boosters) noted that the holiday concert was standing room only and wanted to make sure that we keep the momentum going.

Agenda Item #13: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)

Mr. Pedro noted that the Annual Winter Wonderland Celebration would be held at Diamond Hill State Park on Sunday, December 11th at noon. There will be pictures with Santa and the Cumberland Band will play at 1:30. The Belle Chimes Choir and the OCYL Choir will also be performing.

Agenda Item #14: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)

1)CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2)

1)CTA/ICSE

2)Potential Litigation

3)ICSE Contract Negotiations

C. Reconvene into Open Session

D. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session

Mr. Mutter asked if there would be an Executive Session tonight and Mr. Rotella said yes, there would be. Mr. Wood made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd Mrs. Beaulieu, approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #15: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony